

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the first Office Action dated September 22, 2008. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 8-22 as being an obvious combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,917,336 to Rowser et al. ("Rowser") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,027,005 to Chien ("Chien"). Claims 3, 10, 17 and 22 also stand rejected as being an obvious combination of Rowser, Chien and U.S. Patent No. 5,050,236 to Colman et al. ("Colman"). Finally, the Examiner indicated that claims 5, 7, 11, 18 and 23 contain patentable subject matter. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Initially, applicants have amended claims 5, 7, 11, 18 and 23 to be in independent form including all of the limitations of any base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

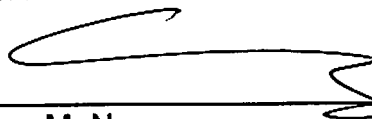
The combination of Rowser with Chien does not teach each and every claimed limitation of the independent claims, as amended. Thus, the Examiner's rejection under §103 is inappropriate. Specifically, we note that the reflective plate cited in the Chien reference by the Examiner is a reflective plate used in a **transmission** antenna (see Abstract). In contrast, the present claimed invention, as amended, is directed only towards a reception antenna used for the receiving of transmitted signals over the air. As the Examiner may be aware, transmission antennas are optimized differently than reception antennas. Thus, the reflector plate 20 of the Chien reference is different from the tuned scatter-plate subassembly of the independent claims.

Indeed, the reflector plate 20 serves the purpose of redirecting transmitted energy from a dipole antenna. Thus, the reflector plate 20 of Chien is optimized to redirect energy outwardly away from the antenna. In contrast, the "tuned scatter-plate" of claim 1 is intended to receive signals and focus them onto a receiving antenna.

These are two opposite purposes. For this reason, at least claim 1 and its dependant claims are allowable over the cited prior art. Claim 9 and its dependent claims also include a "tuned scatter-plate" that is not shown in the prior art. Similarly, claim 14 (and its dependent claims) include limitations that include "means for creating directivity" which refers to the tuned scatter plate of the specification.

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration of the application and a mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Chun M. Ng at (206) 359-8000.

Respectfully submitted,
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